Louisiana Recovery Field Office

Katrina-Rita Recovery

Deactivated: 30 September 2007

US Army
Corps of Engineers
Louisiana Recovery Field Office

Mission Statement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisiana Recovery Field Office (LA RFO) provides FEMA Emergency Support Function # 3 (ESF3) mission recovery support to include technical assistance, debris removal, including demolition and private property debris removal, temporary housing support, and others as assigned to the affected citizens of Louisiana in order to facilitate recovery from Hurricanes KATRINA and RITA.

Duration of Recovery Mission

- An early decision that the Mission would be two years in length would have allowed for strategic planning in both Contracting and Staffing

Executive Orders

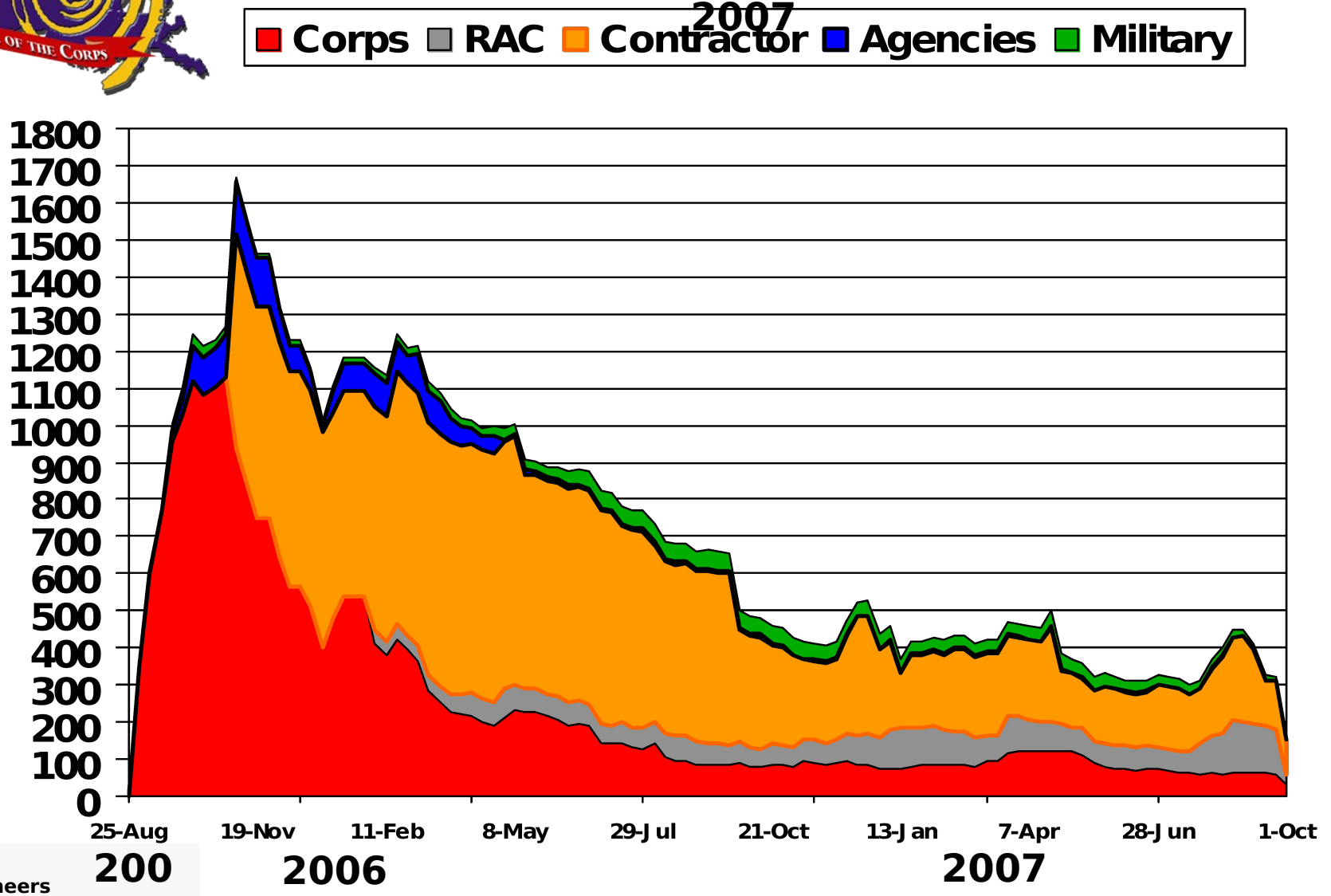
- Local Executive Orders (i.e., the Mayor of NOLA) providing Rights-of-Entry to Private Property are necessary very early to successfully complete PPDR
- Once we have removed “imminent threats”, then assisting the local governments to assume the Demolition Mission should also be an early priority

Programmatic Execution

- Early collaboration between FEMA and USACE Leadership will provide marked results
  - During Katrina, decisions were relegated to staff personnel with narrow views of authority which ultimately led to protracted delays in Mission execution
    - Commercial Debris
    - Standing Dead Trees on Public/Private Property

Workforce Transformation

Aug 25, 2005 to Oct 1, 2007



REEMPLOYED ANNUITANT PROGRAM
Katrina/Rita Deployment Numbers

PERIOD: 8Sep05 - - 18Sept07

389 Personnel **856**
Taskers

- **313 Katrina**
- **8 LA -Rita – only**
- **48 MS Rita - only**
- **4 TFH**
- **15 HPO**

Personnel Issues

- 365 Day Rule – Should have “Official” USACE Guidance that spells out policy & applies to everybody (Active Corps, RAO, Military)
- QA/QAS Training – USACE should consider initiating a 2-3 day formal training course for all personnel when they report for Mission

Computer Support

- The RFO should be staffed with IM personnel that are expert in development of databases & the preparation of automated reporting procedures.

- USACE should consider placing IM SMEs on the ESF #3 Teams to accomplish this at the beginning of the Mission.

Contracting

- Not knowing the length of the Recovery Mission resulted in constantly extending Task Orders and using Contracts set up early in the Mission.

Temporary Housing

Stabilizing families and community economic systems

ON-GOING: MVN

Site Review and Assessments
1,217 potential sites

Detailed Assessments
144 approved sites

QA Support Construction Completed
109 sites

14-Person Team supplementing FEMA technical monitors for 65,000 FEMA Trailers
Current with MVN oversight

Victim Identification Center

Bringing Families Closure Through Identification

COMPLETE

One of the finest facilities of its kind

18,720-square-foot Morgue Facility

ID Capacity: 150 per day victims or disturbed burials

Housed 450 DMORT team members

Ready for future national emergency responses

Debris Removal

Total Mission Estimate: 28.1 million cubic yards

Removed	100% Complete	
Katrina	21.4 MCY	100%
Rita	6.7 MCY	
100%		
Total	28.1 MCY	

New Orleans
Final: 13.3 MCY
Completion: 31 Aug 07

FEMA Mission
Trees: 70,000
SWK Trees: 9,100
Tires: 286,000

Debris would fill
6-7 Superdomes
or
7-8 Empire State Buildings

COMPLETE

Private Property Debris Removal Sites

COMPLETE

Properties Completed

Orleans Parish
26,100
Jefferson Parish
25,150
Plaquemines Parish
2,000
St. Tammany Parish
10,000
St. Charles Parish
1,500
Lafourche Parish
22
Total for Hurricane Rita
3,000
Total Katrina and Rita

PPDR

- PPDR Assessments require a high degree of QA support
- PPDR should not become a standard business practice and should only be done where residents haven’t returned and should be completed within 90 days of the event

Demolition

COMPLETE

Demolitions Completed

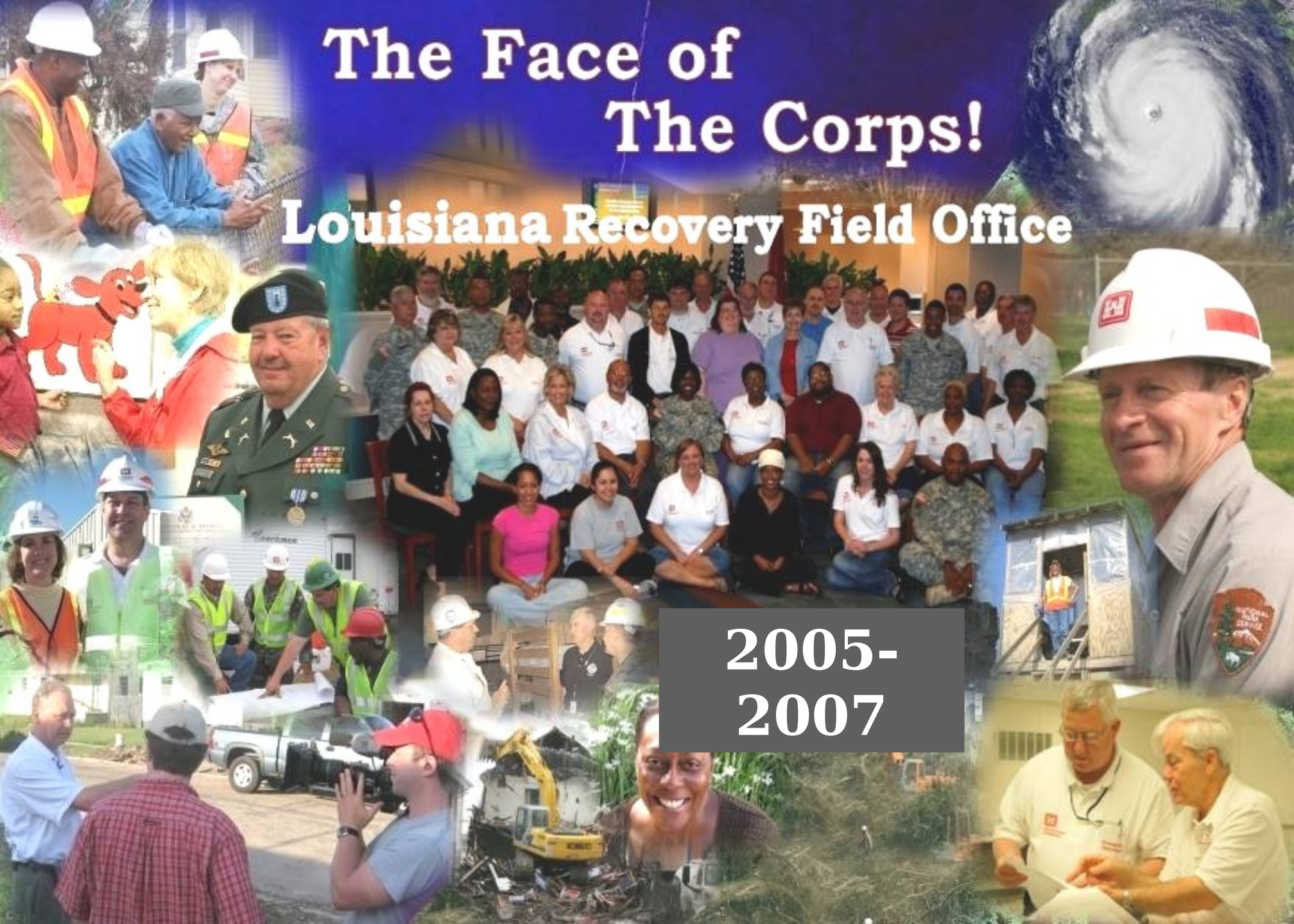
Orleans Parish	**4,235**

Total
7,100

Workload Transition to the City of New Orleans

- **Shared Contract information with the City of New Orleans.**
- **Assisted CNO with the preparation of PM and Demolition solicitations.**

- **RESULTS:**
  - **CNO has received over 300 bids for their Demolition Mission and over 200 Contractors attended the pre-bid meeting on 10/19**
  - **FEMA has funded the PW Program.**


The Face of
The Corps!
Louisiana Recovery Field Office
2005-
2007